

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES

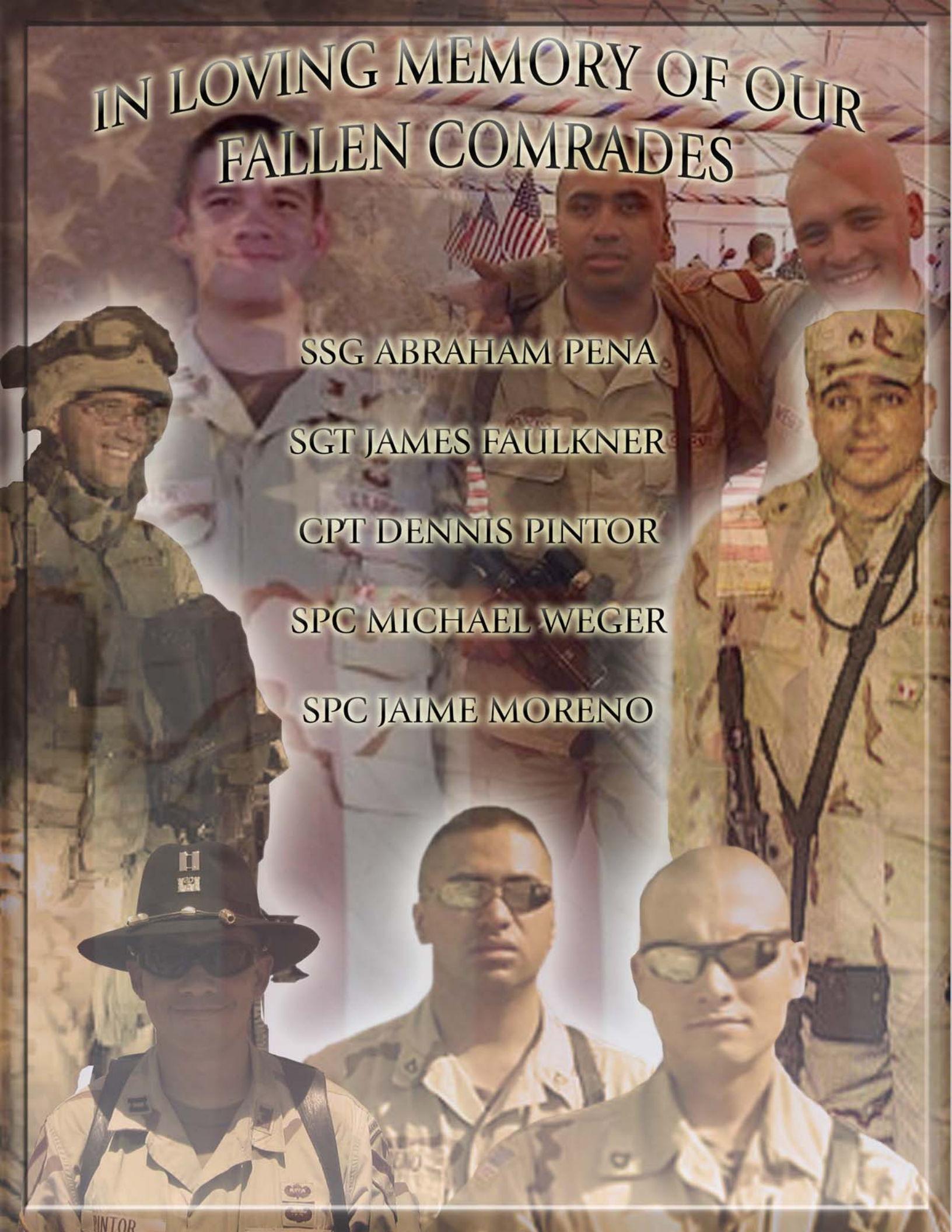
SSG ABRAHAM PENA

SGT JAMES FAULKNER

CPT DENNIS PINTOR

SPC MICHAEL WEGER

SPC JAIME MORENO





Lumberjack Newsletter

VOLUME I, ISSUE VII

October 2004

HHC Change of Command



I'd like to thank LTC Holmes, Colonel Cox, and Colonel Abrams, for giving me the outstanding privilege to command the best and most challenging company in the Brigade. It's been an honor.

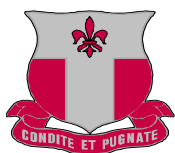
It's amazing to think of how much we've done since I began my inventories some 16 months ago. We've gone through CSS (Combat Service and Support) reorganization where both the equipment and people were split between two units, and in many ways we've been brought back together again. We've excelled and shown prowess on numerous field training exercises, live-fire ranges, and until a few years ago what many would say would be the pinnacle of their command: a rotation to the National Training Center. As you well know, we did all that and more, much more. We deployed to where the country needed us most, here in Iraq, where we support the daily operations of Ironhorse Base as we try to make the world a better, safer place. Have no doubt, that by us being here, we have a direct effect on the safety of our loved ones at home and throughout the United States.

Know that we are a part of that. We are a part of history.

Although the following quote is very commonly used, I thought it very apt for this situation and this great company, the "Man in the Arena" by Theodore Roosevelt, April 23, 1910.

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is

(Continued on page 10)



From the Commander . . . LTC Barrett Holmes

Once again, we have been reminded that freedom is not free. We mourn the loss and honor the memory of three great American Soldiers: CPT Dennis Pintor, SPC Michael Weger and SPC Jaime Moreno. These heroes were killed in action on the night of 12 October 2004. It is hard for us to comprehend why they were taken from our ranks so early. They were doing everything correctly - just the way they had trained and as combat experience had taught them. However, these circumstances were beyond our control. Maybe in time God will reveal the reasoning. It was just their time to go and they are all in a much better place.

We are all better Soldiers for having known them and worked side by side with these great American heroes. We must continue to execute our duties with skill, courage and diligence. We owe it to them and ourselves to remain vigilant, focused, and committed so that we do not allow the loss of our comrades to be in vain.

To all the family members who have experienced this tragic loss, we extend our heartfelt condolences. May you take comfort in knowing our constant thoughts and prayers are with you. Even though our loved ones were taken away, we will always honor their memory and never allow them to be forgotten.

(Continued on page 9)



Animal News

By CPT Marc Distefano

Ask any Soldier and they will tell you that good hot food is one of the best ways to keep morale high. Getting a chance to sit around the table with your fellow Soldiers and talk about the day's accomplishments or favorite sports team is a great way to unwind.

Truth be told, many talk about all of the things they are going to do when they get back home, what they are going to spend all of that tax-free money on, a few even talk about counting down the days. Fellowship over dinner is a wonderful way to keep the camaraderie high and the friendships strong. It is not too hard to enjoy yourself on the food that gets served up in our chowhall!

We get lobster and crab legs two or three times a month and various types of steak and chicken available almost every day. There is a salad bar with easily five or six types of salads, fresh fruit, and vegetables available to go along with the main courses. The desert bar is good enough to rival Baskin Robbins with over ten different deserts and three to four types of ice cream available at lunch and dinner.

For the breakfast person, there is almost any combination of breakfast food available ranging from big pancakes, eggs, and bacon breakfasts to fruits and cereals. We are lucky that the Ironhorse Base Chowhall is one of the best in Baghdad. The hardest thing about mealtime is trying not to eat all of the good stuff!



Chow is only one of the ways Soldiers can unwind after a long patrol. The Animal Dayroom is a big favorite for the Soldiers now that the Armed Forces Network (AFN) satellite receiver was installed. AFN features several channels that show nearly every American ball game or sport you could ask for as well as other American shows. There isn't a day that goes by when Soldiers don't have some heated discussion over who has the best team or which one 'really' should have won the last game. These football rivalries are just as much fun here as they are in the states only there aren't any tailgate parties with which to celebrate. The Dayroom also has a pretty nice eight-foot pool table in the middle of it that was purchased by the Battalion back in the end of May.

A local Iraqi built it and although it is flat, has *purple* felt and the pocket openings are all different sizes, the Soldiers don't mind because they just use that as part of their strategy. Occasionally you see grudge matches going on between Specialists Boone and Townsend, or SPC Baltazar and *anyone* who will play him!

No Soldier can get through a long deployment without all the great support from each and every one of you back home. The number one thing that keeps the Soldiers going is mail call! Nothing keeps morale higher than a nice letter from home or package filled with goodies. Convoys travel to Camp Cuervo every two days to pick up supplies and collect any mail that may come in. The average time for a letter to get here from the states is about two weeks, and for packages it ranges from around ten days to



(Continued on page 11)



Barracuda News

By CPT Richard A. Turk

October in Baghdad was the hardest month for the Barracudas. On Oct 12, 2004 the Barracudas lost their Commander Captain Dennis Pintor, his driver, Specialist Michael Weger, and gunner, SPC Jaime Moreno. This was a tremendous loss to the company and it hit everyone very hard. However, the leadership of the Barracudas, led by XO 1LT Calvin Kroeger and 1SG Harris, stepped up and took care of the Soldiers and maintained mission readiness. It is never easy losing Soldiers in battle but this incident was especially hard because all three were loved and respected by the company and Task Force. As with every operation, the mission continues, and on 28 Oct 2004, the Barracudas conducted an assumption of Command Ceremony during which I assumed command of the Barracudas. It is an honor to join the Barracuda and Lumberjack team and I look forward to leading this great company through the rest of this deployment and on into the future. Barracudas will continue to set a high standard of excellence and execute with professionalism and discipline.

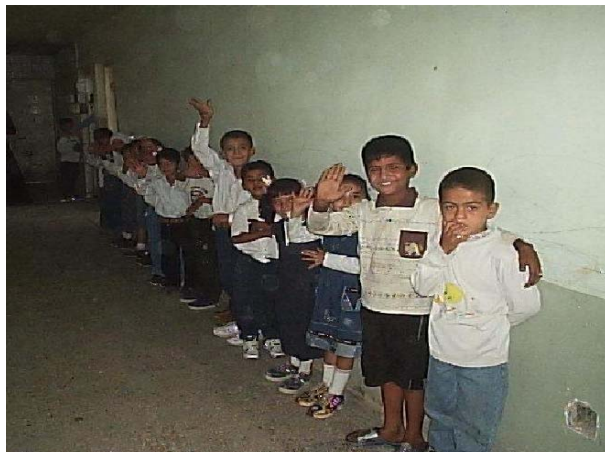
October was a month that went by very quickly for some and slower for others. Thoughts of redeployment and the idea we would be leaving our home at FOB War Eagle (now named Camp Hope) is on the horizon. The weather is showing signs of fall in Iraq. The days of temperatures in the 100's are over. We now live comfortably in temperatures that are more like home with occasional clouds, cool breezes, and the infrequent sprinkle. We even saw wet stuff that comes from the sky (as SSG England puts it) and muddy streets during Halloween. Everyone appreciated the change in weather instead of the harsh sun and dust conditions.

We continue to forge the way ahead and make a direct impact to the Iraqi citizens through continued civil military operations. In early October, before Ramadan (Muslim Holy Month) started on 14 October 2004, Barracuda took part in handing out frozen chickens to neighborhoods in Hababia and Baladiat. Neighborhoods that mostly ignored our presence in the past came alive with shouts and laughter as we blessed them with gifts and food. Many young children who were typically shy towards our presence came to our side and thanked us with a smile and a wave of appreciation. Iraqi mothers and fathers waved and saluted the Barracuda's as our mission continued throughout the neighborhoods.

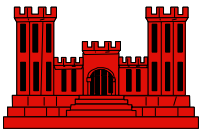
The entire company took part in a project to rebuild a roof for a handicapped Iraqi citizen in early October and deliver humanitarian aid rations to an impoverished community close to the United Nations Building. With building supplies loaded and the mission brief given, 1st and 2nd platoon worked four hours and completed the sheet metal roof and provided shelter for a crippled man with one leg. The elderly man was in tears seeing our company help him to rebuild his home. Others watched in amazement as we worked steadily focusing on the mission at hand, while 3rd platoon (A&O) handed out rations to local neighbors along the street.

2nd and 3rd platoon took on challenges of delivering school supplies to needy children and teachers in 11 different schools that populate our sector. We have engaged the local Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) to provide engineer expertise and advice to rebuild many schools that were looted and rundown throughout Baladiat and Hababia. Barracuda knows the impact they have on building trust through our local projects and the benefits many Iraqi citizens never had during Saddam Hussein's reign.

Barracuda Wrench continues to improve our living conditions. Recently, the carpentry skills were



(Continued on page 12)



Castle News

By CPT Zachary Miller

Since our last newsletter, I have had the privilege of participating in the single best thing about our deployment – environmental leave back to the United States. I hope that everybody who chooses to take this leave finds it as refreshing as I did. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with our FRG while I was home and seeing for myself how strong this team is and how well you are doing. It goes without saying that you are a huge component of our success here in Iraq, and I again thank all of you – as well as those that support you – for your incredible efforts to “hold down the fort” while we execute our mission. A special thanks for the Christmas cards. Everybody was impressed with how great they look and can’t wait to send them out.

It was also great to see several of our wounded Soldiers who are recuperating in Texas. The first sentiment that every one of them expressed was an intense desire to return to Iraq and continue serving along side their comrades. I sincerely thank them for their inspirational words and wish all of them a speedy recovery.

Back at Ironhorse Base, the Company has continued to expertly execute all of its missions with the diligence expected of a 20th Engineer Battalion Soldier. I continue to be impressed with their enthusiasm and motivation.

Castle welcomed a new leader to the team this past month. Lieutenant Kevin Vaughan joins us from Officer Candidate School and the Engineer Officer Basic Course. He has already assumed the reigns of First Platoon and is doing an outstanding job.

Finally, all of us in Castle would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Barracuda who we all know are going through a tough time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Thank you to all of you who do your part to serve our great Nation. May God continue to bless you and God bless America.

-Castle 6





Thunder News

By CPT Thomas L. St. John

Thunder 6: THUNDER! I am dwarfed by all of the great Americans who make up the Thunder Team who I now proudly lead. A big thanks goes out to everyone who contributed to my smooth transition as the incoming commander. I am making my way around to talk to each and every one of your Soldiers during the beginning of my command. My general perception of the Soldiers in HHC thus far is that spirits are high. The light at the end of this deployment is growing brighter and Thunder Soldiers always seem to be willing to go the extra



Papa Turner preparing "little" John for morning PT Crunches.

mile for one another. I am constantly crossing the path of Soldiers with smiles on their faces. Based on my conversations with those individuals, it is the support and love from the family and friends at home that can always bring a smile to their face, even during the hardest of times. To all of the family members and friends of our Thunder Soldiers, I understand the sacrifices you have made during this extended period of time away from your loved one. Thank you so much for taking care of our affairs at home while we are away, and continually providing the awesome wave of support to these Soldiers. I am humbled by your incredible actions. My e-mail box is always open: thomas.L.stjohn@us.army.mil. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or even if you just want to say Howdy!

Congratulations to SPC Scott from the ESE Alpha Company Maintenance Team on his promotion on 05 October 2004. A warm welcome goes out to our two newest Thunder Soldiers who arrived at IRON-HORSE Base on 23 October 2004 and to their families. CPT Carlos Sepulveda is married to Lorelei Sepulveda; they have seven children and currently reside in Killeen, TX. SSG Alfred Morgan is married to Traci Morgan; they have three children and currently reside in Killeen, TX. It is my honor to announce the arrival of our two youngest Sappers. John Ross Turner was born to CPT Greg and Meg Turner on 05 October 2004 (8 lbs. 10 oz., 21 1/2 inches long) Darius Solomon was born to SGT Nathan and SGT Tammie Solomon on 05 October 2004 (8 lbs. 12 oz., 21 inches long).

In honor of our Lumberjack brothers who have recently passed I would like to share the following passage: "Greater love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15-13). Boys, we loved you and we will always remember.

-Thunder 6

Thunder Mike: We are now one more month through our Iraqi deployment and one more month closer to coming home. We'd like to congratulate SGT Denton on his promotion to E5. He can now look forward to having more responsibilities on his shoulders. The Thunder Operations section has sent 1LT Muna on his well-deserved R&R leave. He took a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada and also brought his wife and kids to enjoy a few days at Disney Land. We'd like to welcome CPT St. John and his family to the Thunder Family. I'm sure CPT St. John will do great as our new commander. We would also like to thank the Wickersham family for their service and support in the Thunder Family; and wish him good luck at his next job, the Brigade Assistant S5. As for the rest of us, we will continue executing our mission as the HHC Operations section, Building and Fighting.

Blood Hound Times: After a long month filling in for CPT Turner in the S-3 position, CPT O'Malley has gone on leave to spend some time with his family and the newest addition to his family, baby girl Tiffani.



*Darius Solomon poses for the camera.
CHEESE!*

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

SFC Wilmot has been busy with SGT Brogan developing training aids to help the Army in the fight against IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices). SPC Harris has been the “go to guy” to assist in providing escort for the S-3; he has been on over 15 convoys this month and continues to support S-3 in the fight. PFC Sangster has held down the fort in the S-2 Shop this month while pulling the night shift. He is also in hot pursuit of his long time dream to be an Army pilot. He continues to push hard and study to accomplish his goal. To all our loved ones and supporters, we miss you all and can’t wait to return safely to Fort Hood to be with you.

Lumberjack Mike: We wish to congratulate CPT and Mrs. Turner on the birth of their son, John, (which is also their first born). SFC Smith was promoted to MSG this month and the S-3 shop is very proud of these two events. We also want to wish SPC Soto a happy birthday, which was on 19 Oct. And we also wish to send our condolences to the Barracuda families of the three Lumberjacks that were lost. They will be missed but never forgotten.

Lumberjack Supply: During the month of October, we took time to analyze the battalion’s spending requirements for the new fiscal year (FY). We completed work on several of our contracts from FY04 and established new FY05 contracts to improve living, working, and security conditions for our soldiers. One thing that will make family members very happy is that the planning has started for redeployment. Even though it is a few months down the road, it takes a logistical wizard to put all the pieces into place. The battalion was issued various types of equipment to protect and assist our soldiers in their missions. A major factor in our redeployment planning is determining what equipment is going back to Fort Hood with us and what equipment is staying in country. We call this “Stay Back Equipment” (SBE). The intent of SBE is to dress the unit that will replace the Lumberjacks for success with the best equipment available. The members of the Four Shop Family are CPT Helton, 1LT Caflin, SFC Howard and SPC Menges. We would like to wish all a very happy holiday season.



From left: 1LT Caflin, CPT Helton, SFC Howard, and SPC Menges.

Lumberjack COMMO: The Battalion Commo section would like to extend congratulations to SPC (P) Yang on earning her promotable status. SPC (P) Yang attended the October promotion board and did an outstanding job. We are looking forward to promoting her in the near future. We would also like to welcome back SPC Davila and CPT Guthrie from their well-deserved leave. We hope you enjoyed your time with your families.

Lumberjack ABE: Since the last newsletter PVT O’Brien was able to enjoy 2 weeks at home with his family and has safely returned. SPC Winn’s husband has arrived at Ironhorse Base and he devotes a great deal of time on patrols with the Brigade Scouts. This past month both SPC Winn and SPC Pitts contributed to the security of the FOB as tower guards and as gunners on several convoys. On a professional note, SGT Nieves represented the ABE Section in a company level board, and did well. SPC Hill has shown an interest in attending college at the University of Texas, and the section has rallied around him for motivation. CPT Burescia will soon take a seat on the “Freedom Bird” to enjoy a few long awaited days with his wife Kischel and his daughter Chloe. The ABE Section will be left in the capable hands of SFC Schneider and SGT Nieves who will continue to push this section to excellence. Finally, this past week the ABE shop lost a leader and mentor with the passing of CPT Dennis Pintor. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to Stacy and Rhea Pintor, he will be greatly missed.

Lumberjack S1: As the holiday season approaches and everyone at home gets busier and busier. . .the military mail system slows down. With the expected spike in mail volume, please be sure that you get holiday packages to your Soldier in the mail early. We recommend sending items you wish to arrive for Christmas no later than the 1st of December. Additionally, a camera crew visited Ironhorse Base last week and many Soldiers were able to tape holiday greetings which will be broadcasted on their hometown news stations. Be sure to look for your loved one!



ESE News

By: CPT Leah Kenfield



Alpha Team: If you ask the 20th Engineers anything about maintenance, they will tell you that maintenance is “their foundation.” The Alpha Team mechanics live up to that standard. These 12 Soldiers have put in numerous hours in the motor pool over the past month. The track mechanics led by SGT Canaday, replaced an engine in a M113A3 in only 22 hours. On the wheel side, SGT Blue led the team to complete 10 HMMWV services. Together these Soldiers took the non-mission capable report from 5 vehicles, down to only 2. Even with all this maintenance going on, these mechanics kept up their basic soldier skills. SGT Balderman won the NCO of the month board, and SPC Rought did an outstanding job at the Soldier of the Month Board. CW2 Leca recognized SPC Madore and SPC Rought with a Warrant Officer Coin for their hard work over the last few months.

Next month we are sending SGT Canaday to the NCO of the Month Board where we expect him to do quite well.



From the Left: PV2 Horn, SGT Balderman, SGT Bryant, PFC Scott, SPC Luera, SGT Canaday, PFC Jones and SPC Rought

Charlie Team: The questions on many Lumberjack Soldiers' minds are, “When does Castle Maintenance get a chance to rest?” Team Chief SSG Whipple will tell you mission first, questions later! This month we have parted ways with a top notch NCO, SSG Hook, who has taken over as the team chief for Alpha team and we wish him the best with the Animals. In retrospect we gained a “No mission too difficult; no task too great” leader in SGT (P) Andrews coming from Alpha Team. Both of these moves were career progressions. SGT Moore continues to hold his own on the wheel side of the motor pool ensuring that all vehicles are mission capable. SGT Strom continues to be a double asset performing both track mechanic duties and FOB security. Where would we be without the non-stop, initiative-taking attitudes of SPC Louis, SPC Hill, SPC Chestnut, SPC Waugh, PFC Harvey, and PFC Hibbler. They are truly a “take-charge” bunch and the reason for our success rate. The FOB Maintenance Technician, CW2 Leca, recognized



From the Left: SPC Chestnut, SSG Whipple, PFC Hibbler, SGT Strom, SPC Waugh, SSG Hook, PFC Oleksiak

newly promoted SPC Waugh and PFC Harvey for their hard work and dedication. On 1 NOV 04 SSG Whipple will join the ranks of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers as Sergeant First Class. In conclusion, Castle Maintenance continues to work hard to complete the mission.

HHC Team: The HHC Team continues to strive for excellence by showing their dedication, and professionalism with the completion of missions in a timely manner. “Mission First!” is our motto. In the month of October, the HHC maintenance team performed 15 annual services and applying parts on vehicles that are needed to make both the ESE and the HHC 20th Engineer Battalion fully mission capable and battle ready at all times. SGT Weaver, SPC Henderson and PFC Green, K. assisted in repairs to a bridge on a main supply route for both coalition forces and the Iraqi people. LOGPAC convoy requires Soldiers from the HHC team to go from Ironhorse Base to Camp Cuervo in order to refuel, pick up parts, and container's of water. At the same time, we pull guard duty in order to maintain Force Protection. Flexibility and motivation are the two



From the Left: SGT Weaver, SPC McBride, PFC Green, SPC Henderson, SPC Greene, PFC Luna, PFC Wilken, SSG Bolding, and SGT Moore

(Continued on page 10)



Chaplain's Corner

By CPT(CH) Daryl Gordon

As you all know October was an extremely rough month for the Lumberjacks. We are still mourning the loss of three great Soldiers. Not only were these three men great Soldiers, they were personal friends of mine. I counted it an honor to speak at the Memorial Ceremony at Camp Eagle, and the Memorial Service that we had at Ironhorse Base. These men touched the lives of not only the Barracudas, but also the Lumberjacks as a whole. Many throughout the Brigade were blessed by having known these fine Americans. They will be sorely missed but never forgotten in our hearts. I consider it my privilege to

have served with them.



SPC Phillips says goodbye to his friends and fellow Soldiers.



ISG Hood and CPT Distefano pay their respects to our fallen comrades.

As I speak with Soldiers upon their return from R&R it is wonderful to see the countenance on their faces. All the Lumberjacks deserve and appreciate the opportunity to go home. I am glad to see that this program is working for the Soldiers. There is probably nothing more refreshing for the morale of Soldiers than to be able to "get away" from the pressures here in Iraq. I believe all come back with a clear mind and a determination to complete the mission.

I had the privilege to baptize SPC Justin Harris, HHC, on 3 Oct 04. It is great to see the Lord at work in people's lives. Our worship services have been going well since we changed the time to the evening. This time affords many more folk the opportunity to make the service. The church community here on Ironhorse Base has been able to impact several of the Soldiers stationed here. I am truly grateful for the privilege of serving as Co-Pastor of the Ironhorse Chapel.

- Sapper Chapper



The Chaplain prepares SPC Harris for his baptism.



From the CSM

By CSM Matthew Thomas

Hello, and once again thank you all for your continued support for the Soldiers. This has been a difficult month for the Battalion because of the loss of our Lumberjack Soldiers. I know that no words can take away the grief that the families are going through but I did want to tell you how sorry I am for your loss and that you are in the Thomas family prayers daily.

It is finally starting cool off a little and there is even talk of rain. I know I speak for all of the Soldiers when I say that cooler weather and even some rain will be most welcome. A lot of work is being done both on Camp Eagle and Ironhorse Base to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers. Both camps are getting new Dining Facilities, which have been in the works since before our deployment. Ironhorse has received an AT&T phone trailer, which takes us from three phones to ten, so AT&T phone cards are a great item to send to your Soldiers. The R&R leave program has continued to go well and by the end of this year every Soldier that deployed with the unit initially should be able to go on leave. All of the feedback that I have received from the Soldiers that have gone on leave has been positive and just what they and their families needed. The Battalion has once again started to make a difference in the quality of life for the Iraqi people. The power distribution to most of the areas has gone from 2 hours on and 4 off to 4 hours on and 2 off—sometimes only 1 hour off. Also several of the sewer lift stations have been renovated and are working at a much better capacity. If you have not traveled to a third world country it is hard to explain some of the ways they do things, and the disposition of trash is one of them. Lets just say that they use scoop loaders and 5 ton dump trucks, instead of individual trashcans and garbage trucks. We are continuing to clean the streets and neighborhoods and getting the trash to the appropriate place. All in all the Battalion has been very busy and has a very important continuing mission which every Soldier is committed to and determined to complete.

- Lumberjack 9

From the Commander cont...

(Continued from page 1)

On a more positive note, on 17 October, Mr. Pat McGee from AAFES arranged for NFL greats Marcus Allen and Barry Sanders to visit with Soldiers of the First Brigade Combat Team and the 20th Engineer Battalion. These former Heisman Trophy winners and NFL legends wanted to spend time with some of our Soldiers who are recovering from wounds received in combat in Iraq. At one point, Marcus Allen asked our Soldiers what was a “guilty pleasure” that they enjoyed in the States that their buddies did not have in Iraq. They expected an answer like beer, fast food or fast cars. The answer our Soldiers gave was quite amazing: every soldier responded that the only guilt they felt was not being back with their buddies in Iraq to help watch over them.

This answer immediately won the respect and admiration of these NFL heroes. The true heroes are our Soldiers. These conversations were recorded and will be seen on CBS Sports pre-game show for the Thanksgiving Day football game. This game will also be shown in Baghdad on the Armed Forces Network. Many thanks to Mr. Pat McGee for arranging the interview, and we will be watching Thanksgiving Day.

This is just another example of the incredible character and unbelievable dedication of the Soldiers that fill our ranks. It is my great honor and privilege to serve with our Soldiers as we guard and secure the nation we so dearly love. I wish you could see for yourselves the remarkable job our Soldiers are doing on a daily basis. I also want to thank our families and the Rear Detachment for sustaining us through difficult and challenging times. Everyone is doing a fantastic job! I urge you to stay focused and committed, and keep up the good work!

-Lumberjack 6

HHC Change of Command cont.

(Continued from page 1)

marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

To all the great men and women of HHC, YOU... are the "Man in the Arena." You spend yourself on a worthy cause. You've all done superbly over the last 15 months, it's been an honor to serve with such a varied, outstanding outfit of capable soldiers, and officers. I'm proud of each and every one of you. And I thank you all. I would especially like to thank the outstanding Officers and NCOs of each section who have ensured the success of HHC Thunder, in preparation for and while deployed here in Iraq.

Although they're not here, I'd like to thank all the families and volunteers who help with the FRG.

In particular my wife Cris who has done more than anyone could ask a spouse to do, as well as Meg Turner and Jackie Wilmot who have helped immensely.

CPT St. John, you're taking over a great company; I foresee only great things in the future, for both you and the company.

Thunder soldiers,

REMEMBER..., YOU are the "Man in the Arena." You spend yourself on a worthy cause, you are making the world a safer place, you have a direct effect on the safety of our loved ones at home and throughout the United States.

May GOD BLESS AND GUIDE US ALL

This is Thunder 6 Ancient..... OUT.



ESE News cont...

(Continued from page 7)

key factors that allows the HHC maintenance team to accomplish these everyday tasks.

Distribution Section: The Soldiers of the distribution section understand that their job is done behind the scenes; however, this does not diminish the importance of their mission. It is their job to ensure that Ironhorse Base and all of its units and Soldiers are supplied with water, fuel, oil, ammunition, vehicle replacement parts, and reinforcement materials. Through frequent logistical package convoys these Soldiers accomplish this mission daily. These Soldiers have been called upon to perform other tasks around the base as well. They have used all means necessary to reinforce, set up and remove obstacles and also had to recover destroyed vehicles and equipment during all major combat operations. Our Soldiers are providing constant force protection duties such as tower guard and civilian search and escort. The Soldiers are proud of their efforts and are happy to be helping the citizens of Iraq to rebuild their country. All in all these Soldiers



From the Left: SGT Dockery, SPC McDowell, SPC Thompson, SPC Butler, SPC Mascorro, SSG Joyner, and SPC Gessley.

are working well as a team and performing an outstanding service to the First Brigade Combat Team. There is no question about who provides the best service and support to the Ironhorse Forward Operations Base!

Animal News cont.

(Continued from page 2)

three weeks. The postal unit that supports the 1st BCT is a reserve unit out of New York and they do a good job of getting up to Ironhorse Base every two weeks for two days in which to help Soldiers prepare and mail packages back home. In order to encourage Soldiers to write home, letter mail under thirteen ounces is free. They are even allowed to send home one CD Rom free of charge if it has just pictures on it.

We are all living in a computer age and even in a combat environment the Army provides several internet connections for Soldiers to email or chat with families back home. The 20th Engineer Battalion Internet Café is the best on post with a pretty fast connection and several web cams for the occasional face-to-face conversation. However, sometimes there is no substitute for hearing a loved ones voice on the telephone. For over seven months there were just four phones on base that Soldiers could call home on. In just the past two weeks a new AT&T phone bank was installed and provided another 10 plus phones to help make it easier to call home. The rates in phone card minutes are pretty high so more AT&T phone cards will be a big help.



Being a Soldier in Iraq is a very physically demanding profession with all the gear that has to be toted around all the time. The Ironhorse Base Gym has almost every piece of weight equipment needed to get great workouts and keep in top physical condition, or to just work off all those calories from the chow-hall. Cardio equipment, weight machines, and free-weights provide plenty of variety for gym rats. Another thing that helps Soldiers maximize off time is the laundry service run by Kellogg-Brown & Root (KBR). The KBR employees employ local Iraqi labor to provide basic laundering and mending services for



the Soldiers so the Soldiers can relax or focus on keeping in shape or calling home. KBR provides a bunch of services around the base like maintenance and repairs that would otherwise have to be done by Soldiers were they not here. The KBR contractors are good people and are definitely a great asset to have around.

If you are into souvenirs then there are several Iraqi-run shops on Ironhorse Base that allow Soldiers to get local products or pick something up to send home as gifts. They generally sell anything they can that the Army hasn't labeled as contraband, usually for a good price too.

Now that you all have a better idea of what is available for our Soldiers, you'll all probably be expecting a written letter or an email or two! The Animals have done a great job improving where they live and work and they will continue to make improvements that benefit our Soldiers. Although the separation from family is always the most difficult aspect of a long deployment for everyone, the Army goes the extra mile to make it a little bit easier to handle.

-Animal 6

Barracuda News cont...

(Continued from page 3)

dusted off to build and refurbish the company dayroom in the barracks. The Wrench team consists of SSG Jones, SGT Torkelson, SGT Ford, SPC Bailey, SPC Ashley, SPC Billbury, SPC Vogt, SPC Baker, SPC Vela, SPC Means, and SPC Czimsky. There is no task too large or no obstacle too big that the team can't



tackle and take on headfirst. Without our mechanics, the company would not be able to fulfill the everyday requirements of patrols and security operations throughout eastern Baghdad.

We now have AFN for Monday night football, satellite, and two large screen televisions that are always on or used for playing the occasional video game during down time. Also, games such as Monopoly, Risk, Checkers, Chess, and Scrabble gather a crowd to just relax and talk about home. Thanks goes out to the FRG and Rear Detachment for sending the games, DVD's, and many other items we use around the barracks and company command post.

Four Sappers reenlisted this month to continue their Army career with added bonuses and options that are typically not offered during peacetime operations. Special thanks goes out to SPC Jonathan Love, SPC Darrell Devoge, and SPC Lester Orellana who reenlisted on 19 October 2004. SPC Devoge insisted on reenlisting upon the roof of the United Nations Building where we typically over watch the compound to ensure security and safety for everyone that works there. SPC Kisha Means, our hard working ULLS clerk, is responsible for ensuring the company has all its parts ordered for vehicles; also reenlisted to continue her growth and development in the Army. It is an honor to be part of a company who truly loves what they do for our country.

The Barracuda family sends out our deepest condolences to the surviving members of our fallen comrades: CPT Dennis Pintor's family his wife Stacy, daughter Rhea, father Alberto, mother Martha, and sisters Sarah and Diana. The surviving members of SPC Michael Weger's family, his son Damien, father Greg and mother Patricia. The surviving members of SPC Jaime Moreno's family; his wife Alma, daughter Alexis, father Rudolfo, and mother Constantina. They were our leaders, our brothers, and our friends and will be truly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with SPC Michael Frost and his wife Suzanne who is recovering from surgery.

On a positive note, the following promotions occurred during October. SSG Ivan McStay was promoted to SFC, SGT Jerry Burge was promoted to SSG, SPC Michael Boatright was promoted to SGT, PFC Anthony White and PFC Jared Stoops were promoted to SPC. Awards for October went to SGT Derek Lechiminant, who received his first Good Conduct Medal, and SGT Timothy Knight was presented with the coveted 20th Engineer Battalion belt buckle. As a leader it is always an honor when you are able to promote and reward Soldiers for their performance and I look forward to future promotions and awards.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."



Promotions

In reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of the following Soldiers they are hereby promoted in grade in the following month. The Soldiers are hereby directed to discharge carefully and diligently the duties of the grade to which they were promoted and uphold the traditions and standards of the United States Army. As noncommissioned and commissioned officers these men and women are charged to observe and follow the orders and directions given by superiors acting according to the laws, articles and rules governing the discipline of the Army, and to correct conditions detrimental to the readiness thereof. In doing so, they will fulfill the greatest obligation as a leader and thereby confirm their status as a noncommissioned or commissioned officer in the United States Army.

October Promotions:

SFC Kevin Smith was promoted to MSG
SSG Benjamin Shimdt was promoted to SFC
SSG Daniel Marsicek was promoted to SFC
SSG McStay was promoted to SFC

The following enlisted soldiers were promoted for October:

SPC Christopher Molinar– A Co
SPC Edvon, Macklin– C Co
SPC Christopher Scott– ESE



MSG Smith, SFC Shimdt, and SFC Marsicek all got promoted in the month of October.

CPT Kristy Schaffer, PAO
20th Engineer Battalion
Unit #90014
APO AE 09373

FREE

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO OUR FALLEN LUMBERJACKS



The Soldier's Psalm Psalm 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, my refuge, my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that waiteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of thy wickedness. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall command his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion thou shalt trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.